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CHARTER.

AN ACT

— TO —

INCORPORATE THE MARYLAND INSTITUTION FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF THE BLIND.

Passed May 19th, 1853.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That J. Smith Hollins, Jacob I. Cohen, Jr., John N. McJilton, John Glenn, William George Baker and Benjamin F. Newcomer, and such other persons as shall become members of the Institution hereby created, and their successors, be, and they are hereby created a corporation, by the name of The Maryland Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, and by that name may sue and be sued, answer and defend in any court of law or equity, and may ordain and establish such by-laws, rules and regulations as shall appear necessary or proper for conducting the concerns of said corporation, and shall not be contrary to law, and the same to alter and renew at pleasure, and may have and use, and at pleasure change, a common seal, and generally may do any act or thing necessary or proper to carry into effect the provisions of this act and to promote the design of the corporation.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the object of said corporation shall be the instruction of the blind.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the said corporation shall have the power of receiving donations, subscriptions, devises and legacies of real or personal estate and money, and to purchase and hold real and personal property, in trust or otherwise, for the promotion of the objects of the corporation.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the Board of Directors shall consist of nine persons, who shall be elected annually by the corporate members of said institution, on the first Monday of January; but in case no election shall then take place, the directors then in office shall continue to hold over until a new election shall take place; *Provided, however,* that the nine persons above named be and they are hereby constituted the Directors of the Institution, to serve until the first annual election.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That in case of death, resignation or removal from the State, of any of said Directors, the remaining Directors shall have the power of filling such vacancies, until a new election of the others shall be held by the corporation.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That nothing in this Act contained, shall be so construed as to authorize said corporation to

issue any note, token or other evidence of debt, to be used as currency; and the Legislature hereby reserves to itself the right to alter, amend or repeal this Act at pleasure.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

AMENDMENTS TO CHARTER.

Act 1854. Chapter 67.

An Act to amend the charter of the Maryland Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, passed at January session, 1853.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That the Maryland Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, is hereby authorized to increase its Board of Directors to a number not exceeding eighteen persons.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That the present Board of Directors shall have the power of electing additional members of the Board to serve until the next general election.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted*, That the Board of Directors be invested with the same powers and elected in the same manner as originally provided for in the charter.

SEC. 4. *And be it enacted*, That this act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Act 1886. Chapter 481. Page 796.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That section one of an Act passed at January session, 1853, chapter 203, entitled "An Act to incorporate the Maryland Institution for the Instruction of the Blind," be and the same is hereby amended by changing the name of said corporation from the Maryland Institution for the Instruction of the Blind to "The Maryland School for the Blind."

AMENDMENT TO CODE.

Acts 1892. Chapter 272. Page 377.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That section 3 of article XXX of the Code of Public General Laws of Maryland, title "Deaf, Dumb and Blind, Education of," be and the same is hereby repealed and re-enacted, so as to read as follows:

SEC. 3. "A sum not exceeding \$21,000 shall be annually appropriated to be applied under the direction of the Governor in placing for instruction in the Maryland School for the Blind, formerly known as the Maryland Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, such indigent blind persons of the age of seven years and upwards, inhabitants of this State, and of the county or city from which they are recommended, as may be recommended to the Governor by the county commissioners of each county or by the judges of the Orphans' Court of Baltimore City."

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CHAPTER I.—*Membership.*

Any person who shall pay at any one time a sum of not less than Three Dollars, shall become a member for one year; and any person who shall pay at any one time a sum of not less than Thirty Dollars, or the sum of Ten Dollars, in each of four consecutive years, shall become a member for life.

CHAPTER II.—*Officers.*

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors shall elect annually a President, who shall be chosen from among the members of the Board; a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Consulting Physician and an Attending Physician.

SEC. 2. The President, or in his absence or inability to act, such person as shall be designated by the Board, shall have the custody of the corporate seal, and shall affix it to such instruments as the Board of Directors may require.

SEC. 3. The Secretary shall take full minutes of the doings of the Board, and shall cause them to be fairly recorded in books kept for the purpose. He shall issue notices of all meetings, and shall furnish the Chairmen of Committees with information of their appointment and duties.

SEC. 4. The Treasurer shall receive and give receipts for all money due and payable to this corporation from any source whatever, and shall endorse checks, orders and drafts in its name and on its behalf, including Government and State vouchers made payable to the order of this corporation, and, when necessary, shall make and sign drafts on the United States Treasurer or other proper officer and on the Treasurer of the State of Maryland, as well as upon individuals, for any moneys that may be due and payable to this corporation, and full discharge for the same shall give.

He shall keep regular books of account, presenting the several sources of income and showing expenditures made

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by him. His accounts shall always be open to the inspection of the Finance Committee, and he shall present to them when requested, a summary of his receipts and disbursements, verified by his deposit book. He shall, moreover, prepare and submit to them, in time for examination before the stated meeting in October, a full statement of his accounts for the year ending on the 30th day of June, together with an exhibit of the finances of the corporation.

No money deposited to the credit of this corporation, or of the Treasurer thereof, in any bank or other place of deposit, shall be drawn, except on the check or draft of the Treasurer, countersigned by the President, or, in his absence, by a member of the Finance Committee.

CHAPTER III.—*Board of Directors.*

SECTION 1.—The Board of Directors shall meet statedly on the Wednesday first succeeding the day of their election, and on the first Wednesday of every succeeding month.

SEC. 2. Special meetings may be called by the President, or on the written requisition of three members of the Board, addressed to the Secretary.

SEC. 3. Five members shall be a quorum for the transaction of business, but in case of a vacancy or vacancies in the Board, a majority of the continuing members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 4. At stated meetings, the order of business shall be:

- 1—Chair taken, and names of members present noted.
- 2—Records of last stated and subsequent meetings read.
- 3—Reports and minutes of Standing Committees, read and acted on.
- 4—Communications from Superintendent, read and acted on.
- 5—Reports of Special Committees, read and acted on.
- 6—Unfinished business.
- 7—New business.
- 8—Minutes of meeting read, and if need be, amended.

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SEC. 5.—At special meetings, the special matter shall be first considered and acted on.

CHAPTER IV.—*Standing Committees.*

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors shall annually appoint a Committee of Admission and Discharge, a Committee of Finance, a Committee of Instruction, a Committee on Household Affairs and a Committee of Female Visitors.

SEC. 2. The Committee of Admission and Discharge shall consist of three members, of whom two shall be a quorum. They shall examine all applications for the admission of pupils, and shall certify to the Superintendent such as they shall approve. They shall attend to the discharge and removal of all those whose term of instruction has expired, or who from other causes have ceased to be connected with the Institution.

SEC. 3. The Committee of Finance shall consist of three members, of whom two shall be a quorum. They shall have the general supervision of the fiscal affairs, and shall direct the place of deposit, and make investments under the orders of the Board, of the moneys belonging to the Institution. They shall inspect and certify the accounts of the Treasurer from time to time. On the first Wednesday of October they shall present a full statement of the Treasurer's accounts, as they stood on the 30th day of June previous, examined and certified by them, together with an exhibit of the several items of property belonging to the Institution, and an estimate of their respective values.

SEC. 4. The Committee of Instruction shall consist of five members, of whom two shall be a quorum. They shall have the general supervision of the departments of instruction and of the arrangements and distribution of time for study, exercise and recreation. They shall inspect the order and discipline of the Institution, and shall advise with the Superintendent in relation thereto. All purchases of books, apparatus, instruments, implements and materials for manufacture shall be made with their sanction. They shall submit to

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the Board for its approval the draft of a report on the condition, progress and prospects of the Institution, to be laid before the corporators at their annual meeting.

SEC. 5. The Committee on the Household shall consist of five members, of whom two shall be a quorum. They shall have the supervision of the domestic arrangements of the Institution, and shall see to the preservation of cleanliness, comfort, health and economy therein. They shall direct all necessary repairs to the buildings and furniture. All purchases of supplies for the use of the household shall be made with their sanction.

SEC. 6. The Female Visitors shall be nominated by the Board at the same time with the Standing Committees of the year. They shall be invited to visit the Institution frequently, to advise with the Superintendent and Matron on its domestic affairs, and to extend to the pupils the benefits of their kindly notice and counsel.

CHAPTER V.—*The Superintendent.*

SECTION 1. The immediate charge and conduct of the Institution shall be confided to a Superintendent, who shall be elected by the Board, and who shall act under the advice and supervision of appropriate Committees.

SEC. 2. He shall, with the aid of proper attendants, conduct the several departments of instruction, maintain order and discipline, regulate the domestic economy, and direct the management of the works that may be carried on in the Institution.

SEC. 3. All purchases for the current use of the Institution shall be made by him ; he shall keep accounts of his expenditures, and shall exhibit the same monthly, or oftener, if requested, to the Committee on the Household. Once in every month he shall pay over to the Treasurer all moneys received for work done, sales of manufactured goods or materials, and donations. He shall take such part in the instruction of the pupils as he may deem expedient, under the direction and

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advice of the Committee of Instruction, or as shall be determined by the Board.

SEC. 4. He shall receive pupils into the Institution on the certificate of the appropriate committee, and shall keep a register of their names, ages, parents or next friends, and residence, with the dates of their admission, and a history, as far as practicable, of the causes of their blindness.

SEC. 5. He shall report to the Board at each stated meeting, upon the conduct, studies and progress of the pupils, and shall make to them from time to time such other communications as he may deem important.

SEC. 6. He shall, when requested, attend the meetings of the Board, and the Committee on Instruction.

SEC. 7. He shall annually at the first meeting in January present to the Board a full report on the condition, progress and prospects of the Institution.

CHAPTER VI.—*The Instructors.*

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors shall annually appoint one or more Teachers of Literature and Science, and one or more Music Teachers. They shall perform such duties as may be assigned them by the Superintendent or enjoined by resolutions of the Board.

SEC. 2. The Committee of Instruction shall appoint such assistants and subordinate attendants as may from time to time be authorized by the Board.

CHAPTER VII.—*The Household.*

The Board of Directors shall annually appoint a Matron, who shall administer the domestic affairs of the Institution, under the direction of the Superintendent and the supervision of the Committee on the Household.

CHAPTER VIII.—*Removal of Superintendent.*

The Superintendent, Instructors, Teachers, and all other persons appointed by the Board, or by the Superintendent, shall be removable at the discretion of the Board; and all

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assistants, subordinate attendants, domestics, and other persons appointed by the Committee of Instruction, shall be removable at the discretion of the said committee.

CHAPTER IX.—*The Pupils.*

SECTION 1. Children between the ages of 7 and 18 years, who are so blind as to be incapable of distinguishing the letters of a printed book, may be admitted by the Committee of Admission and Discharge. Applications on behalf of others shall be referred to the Board for action.

SEC. 2. The parents or next friends of those in whose behalf applications are made for admission as pupils, shall make answers in writing to such questions as the Committee may prescribe. They shall, moreover, if of sufficient ability, engage to pay such reasonable sum for the education and support of the pupils, and to furnish them with such proper clothing while in the Institution as shall be stipulated by the Committee, and they shall, in all cases, be bound to receive them back, when required, free of expense to the Institution.

SEC. 3. The pupils shall board and lodge in the Institution. They shall be allowed, under suitable regulations, to attend divine worship, at such convenient places as may be indicated by their parents or friends; and they may at other times leave the premises, upon occasions, with the Superintendent's permission; but they shall at all times remain subject to the control and discipline of the Institution.

SEC. 4. Pupils who misbehave after admonition, or who are found either mentally or physically incapable of receiving instruction, shall be discharged by the Board.

CHAPTER X.—*Alteration of By-Laws.*

No by-law shall be altered, amended or repealed, except at the annual meeting of the members of the Institution, or at a special meeting called for the purpose, or at a stated meeting of the Board of Directors—notice of the motion, in the latter case, having been given at the previous meeting of the Board.

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